

FLASHES OF brilliance

KENT STATE FOOTBALL 2012

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the Flashes'
historic bowl
game
appearance

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the Flashes'
winning
season

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Trayion Durham
brings 'thunder'
to the Flashes'
offense



MATT HAFLEY | DAILY KENT STATER

Senior runningback Dri Archer, shown here in the 2013 GoDaddy.com Bowl in Mobile, Ala., was the MAC Special Teams Player of the Year and a key part of the Flashes' historic season. The Flashes lost to the Arkansas State Red Wolves in the bowl 17-13.

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Flashes fall short in GoDaddy.com Bowl

Historic season ends with loss to Arkansas State, 11-3 overall record

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MOBILE, Ala. — Four points were all that separated the Kent State Golden Flashes from claiming their first bowl game win in team history Sunday night. Trailing in the fourth quarter, the Flashes needed one or two more big plays to make a late-game comeback victory.

Unfortunately for the Flashes, those big plays never came, and Kent State came up just short of fulfilling its ultimate goal.

The Arkansas State Red Wolves held on to defeat the Flashes 17-13 in the 14th annual GoDaddy.com Bowl Sunday at Ladd-Peebles Stadium, as the Flashes’ historic football season ended with a hard-fought loss.

Kent State finished with an 11-3 overall record, capping off the best season in Flashes football history.

Head coach Darrell Hazell said this was a tough loss for the players to handle considering how badly they wanted to win this game.

“We obviously didn’t make a lot of plays offensively in the red zone, and [the Red Wolves’] defense did a great job at keeping us contained,” Hazell said. “Give a lot of credit to Arkansas State and the job their staff did.”

Both defenses started the game off strongly as neither team allowed the other to score in the first quarter. The Flashes had an opportunity to score in the first quarter with the ball on the Red Wolves’ 3-yard line, but senior quarterback Spencer Keith’s pass was deflected and intercepted by linebacker Nathan Herrold in the end zone.

The Flashes changed the momentum of the game on their first drive of the second quarter when junior running back Dri Archer took a handoff and scrambled his way 44 yards down to the Red Wolves’ 22-yard line.

After a pass interference penalty on Arkansas State, Archer got the ball again on an end-around handoff and took it 16 yards for the touchdown. The play gave Kent State the first lead of the game.

“It was a play we worked into our game plan a few weeks ago,” Archer said. “Once I got the ball, I knew I had to make one guy miss. After that, I knew I had it.”

The Red Wolves gained momentum later on in the quarter by utilizing a no-huddle offense that caught the Flashes off guard on a few occasions. Hazell said Arkansas State found a way to keep the Flashes’ defense off balance throughout the contest.

“We didn’t execute as well as I would’ve liked us to,” Hazell said. “They went with the quick offense, and we had a hard time getting lined up at times. I think we could’ve done a better job with that.”

A 60-yard Arkansas State drive ended with a 10-yard touchdown run by running back David Oku, tying the game at 7 with 5:40 left in the first half.

Arkansas State’s subsequent drive was very similar, and the fast-paced play-calling forced the Flashes to scramble when setting up their defense. The Red Wolves snatched the lead away from the Flashes on a 31-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ryan Aplin to wide receiver J.D. McKissic.

Kent State responded with a 42-yard field goal by senior kicker Freddy Cortez, but Arkansas State took a 14-10 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Red Wolves continued to move the ball well early in the second half and threatened to extend its lead by another touchdown. Kent State’s defense held tough in the shadow of



Senior running back Dri Archer walks off the field after Kent’s 17-13 loss to Arkansas State in the GoDaddy.com Bowl game on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013..

its own end zone and held Arkansas State to a 25-yard field goal — keeping it a one-possession game.

The Flashes cut into the lead once again after a solid drive that included a 15-yard screen pass from Keith to sophomore running back Trayion Durham. Cortez converted another field goal — a 26-yarder this time — and the Flashes were back within four points as the game shifted to the fourth quarter.

Defense once again controlled the game for the early half of the fourth quarter, both teams forcing the other to punt multiple times. The Flashes needed one more touchdown to take the lead and almost got it on their final drive after a fourth-down conversation on a pass from Keith to senior receiver Matt Hurdle.

After a pass to sophomore receiver Chris Humphrey went through Humphrey’s hands and fell incomplete in the end zone, Keith attempted to scramble for the first down on a fourth down and eight. The Red Wolves defense got to Keith and dragged him down short of the first-down marker, forcing a turnover on downs and ending any hope of a Flashes comeback.

“We just needed to do a better job at executing more plays when we had to,” Keith said. “On that last play, I managed to try to scramble for the first down because I saw the defense back up a lot, and I thought I could get it.”

Despite the season ending with a loss, Keith said he felt Hazell did a great job with turning the program



Sophomore running back Trayion Durham hurdles over an Arkansas State player during the 2013 GoDaddy.Com Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

around.

“We had a record-breaking season, and all the players and coaches worked toward a main goal,” Keith said. “I’m sure a lot of people are sad that [Hazell] is leaving because he’s a great man and a great coach. It’s sad to see him go.”

The 2012 MAC Coach of the Year will be on the Purdue football team’s sidelines next season, but Hazell said that doesn’t change the way he feels

toward the players on the Kent State team.

“This game was a rough one, but I obviously have some very strong feelings for the guys in that locker room,” Hazell said. “I love those guys, and they know that.”

Tim Dorst is the football reporter for the Daily Kent Stater.

Grant Engle is the sports editor for the Daily Kent Stater.

Darrell Hazell leaves behind a strong foundation for new coach Paul Haynes



By Nick Shook
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Darrell Hazell sat at a Dec. 5 press conference and spoke with a quiver in his voice almost from the start.

The former Kent State head coach was announcing his resignation in order to take the same position at Purdue University, a member of the Big Ten conference.

For a long time, I wasn’t sure about Hazell. Yes, he led the team to an 11-win regular season in 2012. He turned around a dying program in a relatively short amount of time. People got excited about Kent State football this season.

But he was so professional, I almost took it as a facade. In the small amount of time I was able to speak with him, I felt like he may have just been telling me what I wanted to hear.

That all changed for me when Hazell became emotional during his Dec. 5 meeting with the media. He was repeatedly questioned about how his team reacted to his decision, why he was leaving, what he was planning on doing at Purdue and if he had a goal to reach a high-profile head coaching job. He was genuine, composed and honest — and he won me over.

While Hazell is departing for Purdue, he proved his worth as an honorable man by sticking around (with the approval of Director of Athletics Joel Nielsen) to follow through with his commitment to his team to coach them in the GoDaddy.com Bowl.

That alone was no easy task.

Hazell had to split his time between Purdue and Kent State, beginning his recruiting for the Boilermakers while simultaneously preparing his Flashes for their first bowl game in 40 years.

Sunday was a bittersweet finale for Hazell, as his Flashes fell to Arkansas State, 17-13. It was a valiant effort by the Flashes, and despite the final score, we can look back on the 2012 season as what will hopefully be the turning point in Kent State football history.

Hazell was asked Dec. 5 if he was leaving behind a legacy, and he didn’t believe he was. I would agree with him, mainly because he was here for only two years. But what he did leave behind was a foundation that the program has been seeking since former head coach Don James left for Washington in December of 1974.

“One of the things one of the guys said was, ‘You taught us how to win,’” Hazell said. “I think there’s a lot to be said about that. It’s in them now.”

“I hope that I’ve touched enough people [and] have made a difference in their lives and made them a little bit better,” Hazell said. “That’s all I want to be remembered as. If I made a difference in someone’s life to make them better, that’s all I care about.”

New head coach Paul Haynes will have plenty to build on when he assumes his new role in the coming weeks. As an alumnus and former player, he knows Kent State’s past. He knows what it means to be a Golden Flash.

This is a new era at Kent State. Times have changed for the better. With Hazell’s work serving as the ground upon which his team will stand in 2013 and beyond, it’s time for Haynes to lead his Flashes into their bright future.

Contact Nick Shook at nshook@kent.edu.

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Scenes from the GoDaddy.com Bowl

COTY GIANNELLI | DAILY KENT STATER PHOTOS
(Left) Kent State football players get taped before the GoDaddy.com Bowl game in Mobile, Ala.

(Right) Kent State players sported special helmets for the game, which were widely critiqued on social media outlets.



Head coach Darrell Hazell and running back Dri Archer wait outside the Kent State locker room with the rest of the team before the kickoff of the 2013 GoDaddy.com Bowl game on Sunday, Jan. 6.

MATT HAFLEY | DAILY KENT STATER



Sophomore running back Trayion Durham breaks through Arkansas State's defensive line during the 2013 GoDaddy.Com Bowl in Mobile, Alabama on Sunday, January 6. Kent State was unable to beat Arkansas State, losing the bowl game 17-13.



Kent State fans congratulate the players as they leave the field after the 17-13 loss against Arkansas State at the 2013 GoDaddy.com Bowl.

Score breakdown	1	2	3	4	T
Kent State (11-3)	0	10	3	0	13
Arkansas State (10-3)	0	14	3	0	17
Individual Statistics					
Kent State			Arkansas State		
Pa: Keith, Spencer - 157			Pa: Aplin, Ryan - 213		
Ru: Archer, Dri - 77			Ru: Hayes, Rocky - 57		
Rec: Hurdle, Matthew - 72			Rec: McKissic, J.D. - 113		
Team Statistics	Kent State		Arkansas State		
Passing yards	157		213		
Rushing yards	193		72		
Turnovers	1		0		
Time of Possession	33:05		26:55		



Senior quarterback Spencer Keith goes airborne after a tackle while carrying the ball during the 4th quarter of the 2013 GoDaddy.com Bowl against Arkansas State. Kent State lost 17-13.

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FLASH-backs

W: 41-21

Aug. 30, 2012



PHIL BOTTIA | DAILY KENT STATER
Senior running back Dri Archer breaks through Towson's defense during Kent's 41-21 win on Aug. 30, 2012.

Game 1: Kent State vs. Towson

The Golden Flashes opened the season with a blowout victory over Towson University at Dix Stadium. The university honored the 1972 Flashes football team during halftime, and the 2012 team didn't disappoint. Junior running back/kick returner Dri Archer returned a kickoff for a 98-yard touchdown and added two more rushing TDs to start the year with a bang. Kent State dominated in every phase of the game and cruised to a 41-21 victory.

Andre Parker receives national attention on social media for running the ball the wrong way after recovering a muffed punt.

Flashes cruise to a 41-21 victory in the season opener versus Towson. Andre Parker receives national attention on social media for running the ball the wrong way after recovering a muffed punt.

Game 4: Kent State vs. Ball State

Down 43-42 with less than two minutes to play, quarterback Spencer Keith led the Flashes on a game-winning drive of more than 90 yards. Senior kicker Freddy Cortez kicked the game-winning field goal with only seconds remaining. The Kent State faithful erupted in Dix Stadium when the final whistle blew and the Flashes won 45-43. Many people point to that moment as a turning point of the Flashes season.



BRIAN SMITH | DAILY KENT STATER
Kent State running back Dri Archer celebrates a touchdown with fellow teammate Matthew Hurdle during the Ball State game at Dix Stadium on Sept. 29, 2012. Kent State won the game 45-43.

Oct. 6, 2012

Game 5: Kent State vs. Eastern Michigan
Kent State went to Eastern Michigan and crushed the Eagles 41-14. Dri Archer returned a kickoff for a touchdown for the third time in the season. Traylon Durham ran for 116 yards and scored two touchdowns.

Sept. 29, 2012

W: 31-17

Oct. 13, 2012



Danny Wild-US PRESSWIRE
Oct. 13, 2012: West Point, NY, USA: Army Black Knights wide receiver Chevaughn Lawrence (21) runs after a catch while Kent State Golden Flashes defensive back Dylan Farrington (14) and safety Luke Wollet (39) defend during the second half at Michie Stadium.

Game 6: Kent State at Army

Facing its second-consecutive road game and sitting at 4-1, the Golden Flashes could have used the excuse of fatigue or over-confidence had they not performed well against a struggling Army team. However, the Flashes put up another solid performance and dominated the Black Knights on their way to a 31-17 win. Dri Archer continued his dream season with 222 yards rushing and a touchdown. In a reversal of roles, Archer also added a passing touchdown to quarterback Spencer Keith.

KSU beats Army to go to 5-1. The win improves Kent State's record to 5-1 for the first time since 1973 and just the third time since 1940. The Flashes have also won four straight games and nine of its last 11.

Nov. 3, 2012

W: 35-24

L: 44-37



HANNAH POTES | DAILY KENT STATER
Kent State celebrates with the Wagon Wheel after defeating Akron 35-24 on Nov. 3, 2012.

Game 9: Kent State vs. Akron

The Flashes started the annual Wagon Wheel Game slowly. The Zips jumped out to a 24-14 lead at halftime, but the Flashes showed resiliency and rattled off 21 unanswered points in the second half. Kent State took home the Wagon Wheel trophy for the third-consecutive season with a 35-24 victory in Dix Stadium.

Game 10: Kent State vs. Miami

The Flashes ran their way to another blowout victory against Miami on this warm Saturday afternoon in November. Traylon Durham and Dri Archer scored five total touchdowns and ran for more than 300 yards combined.

W: 48-32

Nov. 10, 2012

Flashes are ranked 25th in the weekly Associated Press poll of college football teams — it's the first time in 39 seasons they break into the top 25.

Nov. 11, 2012

Dec. 2, 2012

Flashes accept an invitation to play in the GoDaddy.com bowl game in Mobile, Ala.

Dec. 5, 2012

Hazell accepts a job offer from Purdue University to become the new head football coach of the Boilermakers. Hazell is granted permission by Purdue to coach the Flashes in the GoDaddy.com bowl.

Dec. 18, 2012

Paul Haynes becomes the first former player to be named head football coach.

August

September

October

November

December

Sept. 8, 2012

Game 2: Kent State vs. Kentucky

Kent State kept it close throughout the first half, but the Wildcats surged ahead late in the game and blew out the Flashes 47-14. It would be the only loss in the regular season for Kent State.

L: 47-14

Game 3: Kent State vs. Buffalo

The Flashes defense dominated the nationally televised game against Buffalo and Traylon Durham ran for 112 yards on 23 carries. Durham's physical style of running helped Kent State control the pace of the game.

Sept. 19, 2012

W: 23-7

Game 7: Kent State vs. Western Michigan

It was a beautiful Homecoming day in Kent, and the Flashes were facing a tough test in the Western Michigan Broncos. The game was close until the very end, but when the Broncos looked like they could make the game close with little time remaining, Luke Batton scooped up a fumble and ran 83 yards for a touchdown to seal the victory. The game was much closer than the final score indicated, as the Flashes finished with a win of 41-24.



HANNAH POTES | DAILY KENT STATER
Kent State defensive players push Western Michigan's ball carrier out of bounds during the Flashes' Homecoming game on Oct. 20, 2012. The Flashes won 41-24.

Oct. 20, 2012

Game 8: Kent State at Rutgers

In the biggest win in program history, the Golden Flashes traveled to New Jersey to take on the Rutgers Scarlet Knights. The game would become Kent State's first win over a ranked opponent in team history. The Flashes intercepted six passes, and forced eight turnovers. National media started to pay attention to the program after the 35-23 victory.



BRIAN SMITH | DAILY KENT STATER
Kent State player Josh Boyle celebrates a touchdown against Rutgers at High Point Solutions stadium on Oct. 27, 2012. The Flashes defeated the Scarlet Knights at their homecoming game, 35-23.

Oct. 27, 2012

W: 35-23

Game 11: Kent State at Bowling Green

The Flashes had a chance to clinch the MAC East with a win over rival Bowling Green. The team traveled to hostile territory and took care of business yet again. Dri Archer put on another show and rattled off touchdown runs of 79 yards and 74 yards. The defense sealed the 31-24 win with a last-possession stand deep in the end zone. The win punched the Flashes ticket to the MAC Championship Game.



KRISTIN BAUER | RECORD COURIER
Kent State football coach Darrel Hazell has Gatorade dumped over his head in celebration of Kent State's 31-24 victory over Bowling Green at Doyt Stadium on Nov. 17. The Flashes victory over Bowling Green brings the Flashes one step closer to clinching the MAC title.

Nov. 17, 2012

W: 31-24



MATT HAFLEY | DAILY KENT STATER
Junior defensive lineman Richard Gray runs down Ohio University's Tyler Tettleton for a sack and loss of 9 yards during Kent's 28-6 win over the Bobcats at Dix Stadium on Friday, Nov. 23, 2012.

Game 12: Kent State vs. Ohio University

The Flashes went into the final game of the regular season only six days after clinching its first berth in the MAC Championship Game. Leading up to the game, then-head coach Darrell Hazell told the media all week that he didn't expect a championship hangover from his team. He was right. The defense held the Bobcats scoreless in the second half and won 28-6 in dominant fashion. The victory clinched the program's first 11-win season in history.

Nov. 23, 2012

Flashes finish regular season with a perfect 8-0 MAC record and an 11-1 season record after defeating Ohio University 28-6. Dri Archer sets the single season record for total touchdowns (21) and rushing average (9.69). Kicker Freddy Cortez becomes the all-time scorer for Kent State, passing Josh Cribbs.

November 24, 2012

Darrell Hazell is named MAC Coach of the Year, Dri Archer is named MAC Special Teams Player of the Year. Brian Winters, Roosevelt Nix make All-Mac first team. Six other players are named to the All-Mac second and third teams.

November 28, 2012

Flashes lose the MAC Championship game in overtime to Northern Illinois, 44-37.

November 30, 2012

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Flashes lose 44-37 in MAC title game



Senior running back Dri Archer is pushed out of bounds during the MAC Championship game on Nov. 30, 2012. Northern Illinois won in double overtime, 44-37.

Team defeated in double overtime heartbreaker

Tim Dorst
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Editor's Note: This story was originally published on Nov. 30, 2012.

Kent State and Northern Illinois battled for nearly four hours Nov. 30 in Detroit, and the two teams needed extra periods to decide who would walk away with the Mid-American Conference Championship.

The Flashes kept hanging on and kept the game close throughout the night, but the Huskies were simply too much for the Flashes to handle.

NIU Quarterback Jordan Lynch tallied 372 total yards and scored four touchdowns as the Huskies defeated the Flashes 44-37 in double overtime to win their second straight MAC Championship.

Lynch threw for 212 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 160 yards and three more scores to propel NIU to the victory in the second overtime session.

It was a heartbreaking finish for a Kent State team looking for its first MAC title since 1972. Head coach Darrell Hazell said getting over a loss like this will take a while.

"This is a tough one for us to swallow right now," Hazell said. "That's a great football team we played, and I'm proud of our team for battling back when we were down 14 points."

The Flashes' running game, which had been the team's main strength this season, was stifled for most of the night by NIU's defense and ended the game with only 92 rushing yards.

The Flashes began to show life in the fourth quarter, sparked by a 60-yard pass from Keith to Archer to get them into Huskies territory. Keith then took a page out of Lynch's playbook with three



Senior center back Darius Polk is comforted by an assistant coach after Kent State's 44-37 loss to Northern Illinois at the MAC Championship game on Nov. 30, 2012.

straight quarterback keepers — the last of which got him into the end zone for his fourth rushing score of the season.

With Kent State trailing 27-20, Lynch took a hit and fumbled the football on the NIU 29 yard line. Junior linebacker Zach Hitchens scooped up the ball and took it back for a touchdown, tying the game with 4:38 remaining.

The Huskies responded almost immediately as they drove 75 yards in four plays ending with a 9-yard touchdown run by Lynch.

Kent State had one last chance to tie the game up yet again. After a few successful passing plays moved the Flashes down the field, Keith found junior tight end Tim Erjavec in the end zone for the touchdown that sent the game into overtime.

In the first overtime game in the history of the MAC Championship game, both teams matched one another with a field goal in the first extra period.

Senior kicker Freddy Cortez converted on a 33-yard field goal to give the Flashes a 37-34 lead, and NIU kicker Matthew Sims answered by booting a 40-yarder to tie it up once again.

In the second overtime period, Lynch followed a 23-yard run by halfback Akeem Daniels by keeping the ball and diving into the end zone for the go-ahead touchdown run. When Kent State tried to answer on its chance to score, senior quarterback Spencer Keith threw an interception that ended the game.

Hazell said the Flashes had a difficult time handling Lynch all game and added that the team just didn't make enough plays down the stretch.

"We just needed to make a few more plays at the end," Hazell said. "That's an excellent football team, and their quarterback is exceptional. We had a hard time tackling him all day. Right now, the guys in our locker room are hurting."

Despte the loss, the Flashes were invited to the GoDaddy.com Bowl. It will be the first bowl game for Kent State in 40 years.

Tim Dorst is the football reporter for the Daily Kent Stater

A new coach, a new future



JENNA WATSON | DAILY KENT STATER
Coach Darrell Hazell celebrates with players after their win against Bowling Green State University at Doyt Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 17. After a close game, the Flashes came through at the end with a leading score of 31-24.

Flashes hire first alum as head coach for 2013 football season

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Paul Haynes

2012 was a year of firsts for Kent State's football program. The Flashes recorded their first 11-win season in school history. Kent State won the Mid-American Conference East Division title and made its first-ever appearance in the MAC Championship Game.

Kent State then named a former player as head coach for the first time in the history of the program after Darrell Hazell resigned Dec. 5 to become the head coach of the Boilermakers at Purdue University.

Director of Athletics Joel Nielsen introduced Paul Haynes as the 21st head coach of Kent State's football team inside the campus' Student Center governance chambers Dec. 18.

"Paul has every value and characteristic needed to build upon our success and to keep Kent State football on the map," Nielsen said.

Haynes, the defensive coordinator at Arkansas, arrived with the hope and vision to continue the success. But he emphasized that after the Flashes play in the GoDaddy.com Bowl, the focus will be on the future.

"After we take care of our business on Jan. 6, we're really not going to talk about last year," Haynes said. "We're going to talk about what got us there."

Kent State football appeared on the national scene in 2012 thanks to the efforts of head coach Darrell Hazell and his players, who won 11 of 12 regular season games before falling to Northern Illinois in double overtime at the MAC Championship Game.

Hazell said he faced a tough decision to leave Kent State, but he couldn't pass up the opportunity to coach at a Big Ten school.

"I'm excited about that new chapter in my life," Hazell said. "But, obviously, it's always hard to leave people that you love."

The 2012 MAC Coach of the Year had three years remaining on his contract with Kent State at \$300,000 per year. A clause in his contract states he is responsible for paying back the remainder of his contract to the university should he leave early.

Hazell was 16-9 in two years as the Flashes head coach. The team received its first bowl game invitation in 40 years and played in the GoDaddy.com bowl Jan. 6.

Haynes finished his Kent State career with 440 tackles, ranking seventh on the Flashes' all-time career tackles list. He began his coaching career as an assistant at St. Francis DeSales in 1993.

Haynes eventually made his way to The Ohio State University, where he coached alongside Hazell under head coach Jim Tressel from 2005-2010.

"I know Darrell Hazell," Haynes said. "I know Darrell Hazell's philosophy. His philosophies are a lot of my philosophies — we come from the same tree."

That same tree is a reason why Nielsen said he selected Haynes as the next man to lead the Flashes onto the Dix Stadium field. With a banner year nearing completion, Nielsen said he did not see it fit to hire a new coach with a different coaching philosophy, so he looked to the coaching lineage that produced Hazell.

"Paul's a guy that we talked to two years ago," Nielsen said. "At that point, though, we felt that Darrell was more ready."

Haynes is a native of Columbus, Ohio, and knows the area well.

This time around, Nielsen felt differently about Haynes. "His experience as a coach and a recruiter, plus his knowledge of Ohio, along with his relationships with the Ohio high school coaches put Paul Haynes at the top of my list," Nielsen said.

Haynes took a pay cut to become the head coach of his alma mater. He signed a five-year contract that pays him \$375,000 in base salary, plus plenty of achievement-based incentives. Haynes made \$475,000 as the defensive coordinator at Arkansas.

Haynes will not play a part in preparations for the GoDaddy.com Bowl, but said he will attend the game to support the players he met with shortly before the press conference began Dec. 18.

"When I met with these guys, it just kind of hit me and I got emotional about it," Haynes said. "I was in their shoes. I wore these colors. I sat in these meetings."

Haynes joined six current Kent State athletic coaches (Scott Stricklin, Herb Page, Kathleen Wiler, Jim Andrassy, Brice Biggin and Mike Morrow) as alumni who currently lead their respective teams.

Nick Shook is a columnist for the Daily Kent Stater.

Grant Engle contributed reporting to this story.

Back in familiar territory

Haynes, 43, is no stranger to the history and recent success of the Kent State football program. He walked on to the Kent State football team 25 years ago as a freshman after graduating from St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. He earned a scholarship at the conclusion of preseason camp and started his first freshman year game as a safety.

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